

## **April 26, 2022 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

President Davis called the Regular Meeting to order and Rademacher led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. at the Empire Township Hall. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer and Rademacher were present. Clerk Smith and Treasurer Nelson were also present.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – Purple Loosestrife Remediation was removed. South Bar Lake proposal from Grobbel Environmental and Schedule for Mr. Breederland of Michigan Sea Grant presentation were added to Old Business. Drainage District, Village Trash and Water Tank Inspection were added to New Business.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Dye, support by Chase to approve the agenda as amended. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** - None.

**CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the Consent Agenda with Bills totaling \$14,580.42.** Palmer asked to remove both sets of minutes. She noted comments she would like included and that she had voted no on the Cross Connection Ordinance. Davis noted that a removal of items included in the Consent Agenda should precede a motion and support to approve. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Barr, Chase, Davis, Rademacher. Nays: Bacon, Dye, Palmer. MOTION PASSED.**

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** – Treasurer's report was received, and several questions were answered regarding the Revenue & Expenditure report.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** – DPW report was received.

**COUNCIL MEMBER /COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Written reports from the Tree and Personnel Committees were received. Verbal reports were heard from the Streets, Parks, Tree and Personnel Committees. Their written reports are posted to the website upon their receipt. It was reported that an additional swing set has been ordered for the Beach Park and will be funded wholly from the Memorial Fund.

**HEALTH INSURANCE OPT-OUT – Motion by Chase, supported by Bacon to approve having Burnham & Flowers, at an amount not to exceed \$200, set up a Section 125 agreement that allows for payment in lieu health insurance at 50% of premium cost. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**GROBBEL PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH BAR LAKE TESTING – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to send this proposal to the S Bar Lake Association for their consideration.** There was discussion of the timeline used for testing. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

SCHEDULE MR. BREEDERLAND MICHIGAN SEA GRANT PRESENTATION – **Motion by Bacon, support by Palmer to ask Mark Breederland to attend the June 9<sup>th</sup> Work Session. Upon a unanimous voice vote of ayes, MOTION PASSED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

VILLAGE EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS – **Motion by Bacon, support by Barr that all email blasts be sent thru the Village Office via the Clerk or Deputy Clerk except for emergency notifications.** It was noted that the DPW be provided and utilize the email list maintained by the Village Office for emergency notifications. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

Bacon explained that she has received additional information regarding the effectiveness of beetles as remediation for a less than 1 acre area of Purple Loosestrife. The \$1350 budgeted remediation is not recommended at this time.

INTERSECTION OF LAKE & FRONT STREETS MEMORIAL TO LABOR DAYS- **Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to place a seasonal stop sign at the cross walk on Front Street between the Post Office and the Friendly Tavern each year from Memorial Day to Labor Day unless negated by Council action. Upon a voice vote there was unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.**

**Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to install temporary stop sign with attached plaque at Lake Street and Front Street coming up from the beach each year from Labor Day thru Memorial Day unless negated by Council action. Upon a voice vote there was unanimous approval. MOTION PASSED.**

DRAINAGE DISTRICT – Davis noted that four options and the prices were discussed at the recent meeting. He asked if the Council would like to send a letter supporting one of the proposals as the Village will receive an assessment. Each proposal was discussed and there was no consensus on a single proposal. All residents were encouraged to provide input to the Drain Commission on the proposals. **Motion by Dye, support by Palmer that the Village Council request an environmental study if the proposal chosen moves the outlet to the southern end of the lake.** It was noted that the Council has asked the Drain Commissioner to solve the problem as the Village has been unable to do so. Dye will draft the letter and Davis will approve and sign. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

VILLAGE TRASH – Davis described an option to have GFL do a Village Trash Pick-up Day as other municipalities offer to residents. Curbside or a central drop off options were discussed. As GFL is booked for this year, this could be added to the budget considerations for next year.

WATER TANK STORAGE INSPECTION – **Motion by Bacon, supported by Rademacher to authorize signing the contract for \$7250.00 with DIXON Engineering & Inspections to inspect water storage tank.** There was discussion of possible additional costs, and it was noted that these would be approved if found to be needed. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.** Davis updated the Council on current repairs to the sensors at the water storage tank and request for an estimate of additional repairs/equipment if needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comments were heard regarding meeting the Sheriff at a Village stop sign, minutes, Garlic Mustard as an increasing invasive, deteriorated condition of lighthouse at the Beach Park and Russian Olive as an invasive species in the Village.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT** – Comment was heard on the content of the minutes, and it was noted that repairs to the lighthouse are included in the current budget. Comments were heard regarding the contents, corrections, notification and posting of minutes. Sections of the Rules of Procedure were read aloud. It was noted that information on the eradication of Garlic Mustard is posted on the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore website under the biology section.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 7:44 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

*These are draft minutes for approval at the May 24, 2022, Regular Council meeting.*

DRAFT